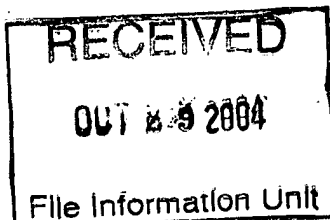


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US 20010002374A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
Sullivan(10) **Pub. No.: US 2001/0002374 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: May 31, 2001**(54) **MULTI-LAYER GOLF BALL**(75) **Inventor: Michael J. Sullivan, Chicopee, MA (US)**

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661, filed on Sep. 16, 1996, which is a division of application No. 08/562,540, filed on Nov. 20, 1995, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 08/070,510, filed on Jun. 1, 1993, now abandoned.

**Publication Classification**

(51) **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **A63B 37/04; A63B 37/06**  
(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **473/374; 473/376**

(73) **Assignee: Spalding Sports Worldwide, Inc.**(21) **Appl. No.: 09/737,001**(22) **Filed: Dec. 14, 2000****Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Continuation of application No. 09/076,343, filed on May 12, 1998, which is a division of application No. 08/997,857, filed on Dec. 24, 1997, which is a division of application No. 08/926,246, filed on Sep. 5, 1997, which is a division of application No. 08/714,

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention is directed to an improved multi-layer golf ball comprising a core, an inner cover layer and an outer cover layer. The inner cover layer is comprised of a high acid ionomer or ionomer blend which may or may not include a filler such as zinc-stearate. The outer cover layer is comprised of a soft, very low modulus ionomer or ionomer blend, or a non-ionomeric thermoplastic elastomer such as polyurethane, polyester or polyesteramide. The resulting multi-layered golf ball of the present invention provides for enhanced distance without sacrificing playability or durability when compared to known multi-layer golf balls.

